



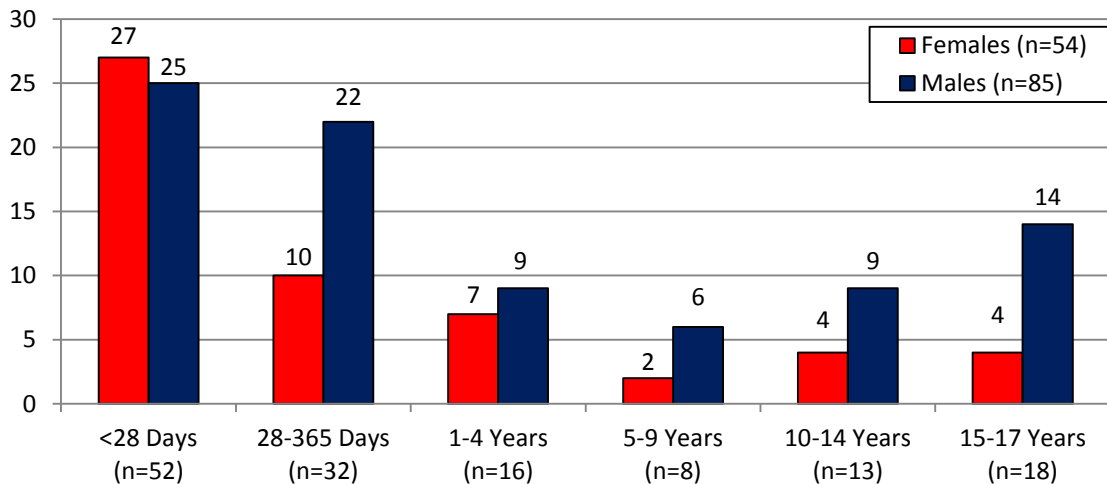
Arizona Child Fatality Review Program

2010 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR PIMA AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Pima or Santa Cruz Counties. During 2010, there were 139 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Pima (n=130) and Santa Cruz (n=9). Males accounted for 61 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=85) and females accounted for 39 percent (n=54). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group,
Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2010 (n=139)**

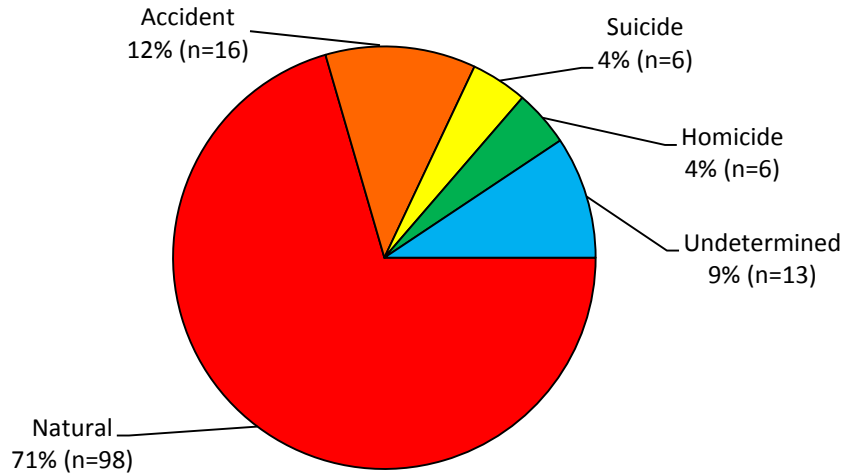


Deaths were over-represented among African American, Hispanic and American Indian children in these counties. African American children comprised four percent of the population but six percent of the fatalities (n=8). Hispanic children comprised 52 percent of the population but 60 percent of the fatalities (n=83). American Indian children comprised four percent of the population but six percent of the fatalities in these counties (n=9). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 34 percent of the population and 26 percent of the fatalities (n=36). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (one percent, n=1).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Seventy-one percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=98), 12 percent were due to accidents (n=16), nine percent were of an undetermined manner (n=13), and suicides and homicides comprised four percent of the child deaths each in these counties (n=6 each). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2010 (n=139)



Ten children died in motor vehicle crashes, and 71 deaths were due to medical causes. Three children died due to firearm-related injuries and one child drowned. Six children died due to hanging and two died by poisoning. One child died from exposure and 26 died from prematurity. Two children died from blunt force trauma. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Cause	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Total
Other Cause of Death	0	0	0	1	0	1
Medical*	71	0	0	0	0	71
Prematurity	26	0	0	0	0	26
Motor Vehicle Crash	0	10	0	0	0	10
Firearm	0	1	1	0	1	3
Drowning	0	1	0	0	0	1
Blunt Force Trauma	0	0	0	2	0	2
Hanging	0	0	5	0	1	6
Undetermined	1	0	0	0	11	12
Poisoning	0	2	0	0	0	2
Exposure	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other Injury	0	1	0	3	0	4
Total	98	16	6	6	13	139

*Excluding Prematurity and SIDS

PREVENTABILITY

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caregiver or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. The Local Child Fatality Review Team determined that 24 percent of the deaths among Pima County and Santa Cruz County children could have been prevented (n=33).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team might have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor for 22 deaths (16 percent), and lack of supervision was a contributing factor for 18 deaths (13 percent). Unsafe infant sleep environments contributed to 7 deaths (five percent), and no mental health treatment was a contributing factor in 3 deaths (two percent). Lack of motor vehicle restraint was a factor in two deaths (one percent). More than one factor may have been identified for each death. Table 2 shows the most common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of Pima and Santa Cruz Counties.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2010		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Substance use	22	16%
Lack of supervision	18	13%
Co-sleeping	7	5%
No mental health treatment	3	2%
Lack of motor vehicle restraint	2	1%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN PIMA AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2010, 139 children who were residents of Pima or Santa Cruz Counties died, and 702 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Pima and Santa Cruz Counties had a crude rate of 57.9 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a higher rate than the remainder of the state (50.5 deaths per 100,000 residents).

Pima and Santa Cruz Counties had a lower percentage of preventable deaths compared to the remaining counties. Twenty-four percent of the deaths of Pima County and Santa Cruz County children could have been prevented (n=33), compared to over one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (35 percent, n=279).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (51 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (40 percent). Prematurity accounted for 19 percent of deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties and was also the second leading cause of death for the rest of Arizona (24 percent). Motor vehicle crashes accounted for seven percent of deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, as well as the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Pima and Santa Cruz Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2010			
Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=139)		Arizona, Excluding Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=702)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	51%	Medical	40%
Prematurity	19%	Prematurity	24%
Undetermined	9%	Undetermined	9%
Motor Vehicle Crash	7%	Motor Vehicle Crash	7%

In Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (12 percent). In the remaining counties, accidents accounted for 19 percent of child deaths. There was a larger percentage of natural deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (71 percent), compared to the rest of the state (65 percent). Pima and Santa Cruz Counties had a slightly larger percentage of suicides (four percent) than the rest of the state (three percent). Homicides accounted for four percent of child deaths for Pima and Santa Cruz Counties as well as for the rest of the state. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Pima and Santa Cruz Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2010			
Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=139)		Arizona, Excluding Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=702)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	71%	Natural	65%
Accident	12%	Accident	19%
Suicide	4%	Suicide	3%
Homicide	4%	Homicide	4%
Undetermined	9%	Undetermined	9%